

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
NORTHERN DIVISION

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BILLY DWIGHT ESCO, #243 253 \*

Plaintiff, \*

v. \* 2:08-CV-763-TMH  
(WO)

LT. STEEL, *et al.*, \*

Defendants. \*

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**RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Plaintiff, an inmate incarcerated at the Donaldson Correctional Facility located in Bessemer, Alabama, files this 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action complaining that he was denied adequate medical care and treatment in August of 2007 while incarcerated at the Draper Correctional Facility. Plaintiff names Lieutenant Steel, the Alabama Department of Corrections, and Commissioner Richard Allen as defendants. Upon review of the complaint, the court concludes that dismissal of Plaintiff's claims against the Alabama Department of Corrections and Commissioner Allen prior to service of process is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>A prisoner who is allowed to proceed *in forma pauperis* in this court will have his complaint screened in accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). This screening procedure requires the court to dismiss a prisoner's civil action prior to service of process if it determines that the complaint is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary damages from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i)-(iii).

## I. DISCUSSION

### A. *The Alabama Department of Corrections*

The Alabama Department of Corrections is not subject to suit or liability under § 1983. The Eleventh Amendment bars suit directly against a state or its agencies, regardless of the nature of relief sought. *Pennhurst State School & Hosp. v. Halderman*, 465 U.S. 89 (1984). In light of the foregoing, the court concludes that Plaintiff's claims against the Alabama Department of Corrections are due to be dismissed. *Id.*

### B. *Commissioner Allen*

The complaint names Commissioner Allen as a defendant in these proceedings. Plaintiff does not assert specific allegations against Allen in his complaint. At most, Plaintiff's claim is that Allen, as Commissioner for the Alabama Department of Corrections, is liable for the conduct of a correctional officer who is alleged to have denied Plaintiff adequate medical care and treatment. The law is settled that there is no *respondeat superior* liability for a § 1983 claim. See *Monell v. Dep't of Social Servs.*, 436 U.S. 658, 691 (1978); *Marsh v. Butler County*, 268 F.3d 1014, 1035 (11th Cir.2001) (*en banc*). Accordingly, Plaintiff's claims against Commissioner Allen are due to be dismissed.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, it is the RECOMMENDATION of the Magistrate Judge that:

1. Plaintiff's claims against the Alabama Department of Corrections and Commissioner Allen be DISMISSED with prejudice prior to service of process pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i) & (iii);
2. The Alabama Department of Corrections and Commissioner Allen be DISMISSED as parties to this complaint; and
3. This case with respect to the remaining defendant be referred back to the undersigned for additional proceedings.

It is further

ORDERED that the parties are DIRECTED to file any objections to the said Recommendation on or before **February 17, 2009**. Any objections filed must specifically identify the findings in the Magistrate Judge's Recommendation to which a party objects. Frivolous, conclusive or general objections will not be considered by the District Court. The parties are advised that this Recommendation is not a final order of the court and, therefore, it is not appealable.

Failure to file written objections to the proposed findings and recommendations in the Magistrate Judge's report shall bar the party from a *de novo* determination by the District Court of issues covered in the report and shall bar the party from attacking

on appeal factual findings in the report accepted or adopted by the District Court except upon grounds of plain error or manifest injustice. *Nettles v. Wainwright*, 677 F.2d 404 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1982). *See Stein v. Reynolds Securities, Inc.*, 667 F.2d 33 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1982). *See also Bonner v. City of Prichard*, 661 F.2d 1206 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1981) (*en banc*), adopting as binding precedent all of the decisions of the former Fifth Circuit handed down prior to the close of business on September 30, 1981.

Done this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.

/s/Charles S. Coody  
CHARLES S. COODY  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE